REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-3, 5-12, 16-18, 20-22, and 27-40 are presently pending in the instant application. This Amendment is made to eliminate all multiple dependencies from the claims, thereby avoiding the need to pay the multiple dependent surcharge; to cancel some claims in order to avoid paying extra claim surcharges; and to place the remaining claims in better condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 415-576-0200.

Respectfully submitted,

J. Georg Seka Reg. No. 24,491

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP Two Embarcadero Center, Eighth Floor San Francisco, California 94111-3834

Tel: 415-576-0200 Fax: 415-576-0300 Attachments JGS:sba